

# 5 April 2020-Year A Palm Sunday



**First Reading:** A Reading from Isaiah 50:4-7

**Responsorial Psalm:** My God, My God, why have You abandoned me?

**Second Reading:** A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!**  
Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised Him on high and gave Him a name above all other names.  
**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!**

**Gospel:** The Passion of the Lord according to Matthew 26:14-27:66

**Dear Parishioners,  
We celebrate Palm Sunday**

## 1. The King on a Donkey

On Palm Sunday, we commemorate the occasion when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the crowd shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Prophets had foretold that there would be a son of David who would be a righteous king over his people. God himself told King David, "Your throne will be established forever" (2 Sam 7:16). And Zechariah foretold that this promised king would come to his people riding on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9). The crowd around Jesus had seen the miracles he did, and they thought he might be that promised righteous messianic son of David. So, when they saw Jesus headed to Jerusalem on a donkey, they cried hosanna to their king.

**Christ, who is a son of David, is a righteous king; and his kingship is forever.**

And you can see why they did. It is a wonderful thing to live in a country governed by a righteous ruler. All those subject to his reign are blessed by living in a community where justice is in power.

But don't we need a reality check here?

It has been a very long time since anyone from any family was a king of Israel, hasn't it? And in which country on earth does justice rule? So where then is that divinely promised, everlasting righteous kingship of the Davidic line? What is there, after all, to yell "hosanna" about?

But God's promise to David is true, even so.

Christ, who is a son of David, is a righteous king; and his kingship is forever. Only, he makes his way into his kingdom riding on a donkey.

Wouldn't a king want to ride on a horse? On a stallion? A donkey is a ludicrous beast. Why would a king want to ride on a donkey?

But the donkey helps us see the point. This king is riding to the cross. His title to be king is blazoned on a sign at its top. No one needs a stallion for a journey with crucifixion at its end. For this purpose, a donkey is perfectly fine.

And so the divine promises about the Davidic king are true. There is an everlasting kingdom of justice. But it is not of this world, as Christ explains to Pilate. In this world, the king of justice rides on a donkey, and the cross is at the heart of true and righteous kingship.

## **ST ANTHONY'S PARISH CHURCH** 105 ELEVENTH AVENUE AUSTRAL 2179

**Pastor:**  
Fr. Robert Hayes PP RFD VF

**Secretary:** Cheryl McKell  
**House Manager:** Cathy Sanders

**Presbytery and Parish Office:**  
320 EDMONDSON AVENUE  
AUSTRAL

**Parish Office is open on:**  
Tuesday - Thursday  
Closed for lunch 12.30-1.30 pm.

**Phone:** 9606 0206; **Fax:** 9606 0153

**Email Address:**  
stanthonysaustral@bigpond.com

**Web Address:**  
www.stanthonysaustral.org

**Archdiocesan website:**  
www.sydney.catholic.org.au  
**Presbytery is closed on Mondays.**

**St Anthony of Padua Catholic  
College**

**School Principal:**

Mrs Lea De Angelis

**Phone:** 9606 8600

**Email:** info@stapaustral.catholic.edu.au

### Sacramental Life

**Celebration of the Eucharist:**

**Mass Schedule:**

Saturday - 5.30pm Vigil (Includes  
Children's Liturgy during School  
Term)

Sunday - 7.30am

Sunday - 9am (Includes Children's  
Liturgy during School Term)

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 9am

Wednesday - 9am

Thursday - 9am

Friday - 9.00am Mass and  
Adoration till 10am.

**Reconciliation: Saturday**  
4.30 - 5.15pm

**Baptisms & Marriages:**

By appointment at Presbytery

**Anointing:** Every 2 months -  
check bulletin for dates

**Sick Calls:** Any time - day/night.

**Funeral Masses:** In co-operation  
with Funeral Directors.

## 2. Dear Parishioners

As Christians, we enter into the holiest time on the Christian calendar, but it won't be celebrated as we have done in any of our life-times. I guess it may be one to tell the Grandchildren down the way.

As we continue to live in isolation as a community, remember we are not in isolation from our God. God is near to each one of us, especially in our personal and formal prayer time.

Jesus felt isolation on the cross, as He felt the Father had, abandoned Him: "My God, My God, why have you abandoned Me? He cried." Yes, this virus may cut us off from each other physically, but as Christians we believe that all our loneliness is embraced in a communion that pierces through every obstacle that is placed in our way.

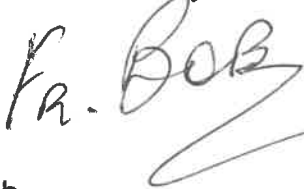
The Apostles isolated themselves in those days after Good Friday for "fear of the Jews." Jesus comes through the locked doors and lifts their fears and loneliness. He does it with each one of us too.

Yes, we are to endure isolation within our homes and farms. However, what are the gestures that we can make that will put us in "touch" with those we cannot touch? It maybe the simple phone call or sending a text message to remind others that we are thinking of them.

So, remain of good cheer and hopeful that this virus will be overcome and we will come through it "on the other side" as the PM says.

As St Augustine (4th Century) reminds us: "God remains present to me, in my deepest interiority." So, however, lonely I or we feel, remember I or we are not alone, for at the core of my very being our God is there with me, with us.

God Bless and Stay Safe



Fr Bob

Q: Who is the Saint for plaques and pandemics?

A: Saint Corona martyred in 170AD!



## Recently Deceased

Ernest (Rusty) Rust, Juozas Jocys both from Tobruk Village.

"Rusty" was a Commando during WWII and coast watcher in New Guinea and the Solomons. He is survived by his wife Eileen. He passed away at 98 years young.

Jouzas (Joe) Jocys and his wife attended the 9am Mass. It wasn't until the last 2 years, he was unable to walk to Mass. He was honoured by the Queen as he turned 100 years and passed away Monday at 101 years young. He is survived by his wife Freda.

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

## Passion (Palm) Sunday

This weekend is Passion (Palm) Sunday and for the first time in the history of the Church, we cannot celebrate it as a community and prepare to celebrate the Easter Triduum-Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

However, the College's family educator Veronica Leva, has obtained palm strips (thanks to Joe Cilia) and the children have got together and have made 300 palm crosses with a prayer card attached for families or an individual parishioner to pray at home. There 300 crosses (approximately) and they will be available on a table outside the Church on Sunday Morning from 9am-10am (or until all gone). Please stay in cars and only **one person** approach the table to collect their family or individual cross.

As the Parish is not receiving any income at present a donation in support of the parish (if you can) would be appreciated.



## WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

**Recently Deceased:** Ernest (Rusty) Rust, Juozas Jocys.

**Anniversaries:** Monsignor Dino Fragiacomio.

**Also for:** Holy Souls.

**We remember those who are sick in the community that the Lord will be their comforter and healer as we pray for:**

Ian & Shirley Farrell, Ken O'Leary, Paul Farnsworth, Marie Gough, Michael Jansenko,

## Homily of the Lord's Passion: Passion/Palm Sunday

In the old liturgy, before Vatican II, the reading of the Passion was greeted with total silence. There was no homily. Even the concluding acclamation: "This is the gospel of the Lord" was omitted.

On a day like this, I sometimes feel that the most eloquent response to the word of God we proclaim is silence. Passion Sunday is a deep meditation in which many of us find ourselves at the end of the story of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But then also, a homily might be useful to direct and focus our meditation in the right direction.

Remember, the story (and joke) I have told at some stage of little Johnny who was failing all his exams in the public school until his parents decided to send him to a Catholic school. At the end of the year Johnny came out on top of the class. When his parents asked him what made him change so dramatically Johnny replied, "You see, the moment I walked into that new school and saw that guy hanging on the cross, I knew that the people here were dead serious; so I decided not to take any chances."

The crucifix might have helped Johnny to improve his scores but it is easy to see that Johnny has misread the crucifix. The man on the cross is not there to scare little boys and girls but to show them how much He loves them.

He is not there to show them what would happen to them if they misbehaved; He is there to show them that He has already paid the penalty for our sins. He is not dying on the cross for what He has done but for what you and I have done; because He loves us. He died for us.

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“He died for us:” Many of us have heard this phrase so many times that it now carries with it neither the shock of someone dying on account of what we have done nor the good news of our being delivered from death.

For us to hear this message again today as for the first time, the story of a man who literally died for the misdeeds of his brother might help.

The story is told of two brothers who lived together in the same apartment. The elder brother was an honest, hard-working and God-fearing man and the younger a dishonest, gun-totting, substance-abusing rogue.

Many a night the younger man would come back into the apartment late, drunk and with a lot of cash and the elder brother would spend hours pleading with him to mend his ways and live a decent life. But the young man would have none of it.

One night the junior brother runs into the house with a smoking gun and blood-stained clothes. “I killed a man,” he announced. In a few minutes the house was surrounded by police and the two brothers knew there was no escape.

“I did not mean to kill him,” stammered the young brother, “I don’t want to die.” By now the police were knocking at the door.

The senior brother had an idea. He exchanged his clothes with the blood-stained clothes of his killer brother. The police arrested him, tried him and condemned him to death for murder. He was killed and his junior brother lived. He died for his brother.

Can we see that this story of crime and death is basically a story of love?

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Similarly, the story of the suffering and death of Jesus which we hear in the Passion is basically a story of love – God’s love for us.

How should we respond to it? Well, how would you expect the junior brother to respond to the death of the senior brother?

We would expect him to respond with GRATITUDE. Gratitude to his generous brother should make him turn a new leaf and never go back to a life of crime.

He would be a most ungrateful idiot if he should continue living the sort of life that made his brother die. Gratitude should make him keep the memory of his brother alive.

No day should pass that he should not remember his brother who died for him.

What God expects from us this Passion/Palm Sunday is gratitude – gratitude strong enough to make us hate sin of every shade and colour; strong enough to make us translate our love of God into love of all of God’s people.

May God bless and keep us during these days. Our Lady of Lourdes ...pray for us.

## From Archbishop Anthony

To say the start of 2020 has been a challenge would be an understatement. Drought, fires, storms and now a pandemic. Many people are being asked to make great sacrifices at this time: our health professionals working long hours and risking their own health; those who have lost their jobs; businesses that have had to close; parents struggling to care for children while 'working from home'.

As Catholics, our greatest sacrifice is being unable to gather to celebrate the sacraments or even spend time praying in a church. We make this sacrifice in solidarity with all our fellow citizens. The Church in Australia was founded at a time when the Mass could not be celebrated on these shores and our forebears waited for years to receive the Holy Eucharist.

For us it will be at worst a matter of weeks or months but just as prayer sustained them through those times, so it can sustain us today. For parents and caregivers as the first teachers of the faith, I encourage you to keep Sunday holy by setting aside some time for prayer, reading the Scriptures of the day or watching Mass on television or online with your children.

Over the Easter weekend, I'm very pleased to announce that 7News will televise for the first time the 3pm Good Friday service and the 10.30 Easter Sunday Mass live from Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral. I would urge you to tune in to this very special broadcast together as a family.

To help you maintain your physical health and spiritual life through this crisis, we have a page on our archdiocesan website which includes all the latest updates, prayers and spiritual resources as well as where to watch Mass online <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/>.

For people needing assistance at this time, CatholicCare's "CCareline" is ensuring practical support, counselling and other services and can be reached on 13 18 19.

Please be assured of my continual prayers and blessings throughout this Easter season and holiday break. God bless.

+Archbishop Anthony Fisher DD

## MARRIAGES AT ST ANTHONY'S

Last week at St Anthony's  
we celebrated the marriage of

Anthony Robert Raso

and

Vanessa Mitroff

We congratulate them on their marriage and wish  
them a wonderful life together.



## BAPTISMS AT ST ANTHONY'S

We welcomed into our Faith-Community  
last weekend

Leon Gracen Said  
(Child of Allen & Georgia)



## Parish Hall for Hire

The Parish Hall has had a make-over, as those  
who have worked in it can testify.

The room has been painted, splash tiles around  
the sink area, a new oven and the cupboards have  
been repaired.

Parishioners are welcome to hire the hall for family  
celebrations, baptism parties, wedding  
anniversaries and birthday parties for children up to  
age 10.

Teenage parties may be an issue so the parish will  
NOT hire out to these events.

The cost of hire is: \$450 plus a bond of \$100 that  
will be returned as long as the Hall is left clean &  
tidy with no damages.

Anyone interested in hiring the hall should contact  
the parish secretary for the rental agreement and  
the hirer's responsibility using the hall.

## A Message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate  
people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or  
anyone you know, have been abused, please  
contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the  
Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at  
(02) 9390 5810 or  
[safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You  
may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who  
will be able to provide support and guidance. The  
Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes  
to the police.

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT MORNINGS

This service is for family and friends who grieve the  
loss of a loved one and the changes that loss makes  
in one's life.

Morning tea is provided in a relaxed and caring  
setting.

For further information contact:

Bereavement support Ph: 02 9646 6908 or email:  
[bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au](mailto:bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au)

If you or a friend are in need of such support please  
ring and attend the session

**Sessions held:** Every Third Wednesday of the  
Month from 10am-1pm.

## KID'S CORNER

**Q.** What has four wheels and flies?

**A.** A Garbage Truck.



## READ THE DIGITAL EDITION OF THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

*The Catholic Weekly* has temporarily transitioned to a digital presence only due to the government's decision to close all Churches during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am pleased to inform you that has been adapted extremely well and they are continuing to produce the paper in a **digital form** making it available to everyone online at [www.catholicweekly.com.au](http://www.catholicweekly.com.au)

### **What is a digital edition?**

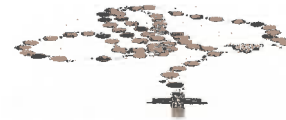
It is the current paper delivered on our website and which is formatted identically to the print edition.

## The Chain of Mary Association Inc

The Chain of Mary Association Inc One Decade Rosary Booklets.

Please feel free to take the Chain of Mary one decade Rosary booklet and pray it each day with faith and devotion. Ask for any grace you need and Mother Mary will listen to you. Write your name and intentions in the book provided on the table at the back of the church and once a week Mass will be offered for you and your intentions.

For any enquiries please call  
Sr-in-Christ Rosa  
Ph: 96067571



## Behind the scenes at Lewisham for Night Patrol

This is a wonderful outreach opportunity for parents and parishioners. You have an opportunity once a term to travel to Lewisham as a group to assist between 10am-1pm we can grab a bite to eat at a local cafe or on our way back to school for pick up time. Lewisham is a larger centre than Liverpool and provides food for the Sydney van services. Activities we will be undertake on the day could include:

- Preparing sandwiches
- Cleaning of our vehicles (inside and out)
- Preparation of toiletry gift packs for those experiencing homelessness
- Sorting of donations
- The preparation of a salad or soup
- General cleaning and sorting.

We need a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 8 people to assist each day and unfortunately because space is limited at the centre no toddlers are permitted. If you are interested in attending any of these days please email me at [veronica.leva@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:veronica.leva@syd.catholic.edu.au)

We made four trips to Lewisham last year and I have booked four more for this year.

- Tuesday 9 June
- Tuesday 1 September
- Friday 27 November

## Using the Parish Toilets

A bin has been placed in the Ladies toilets for soiled nappies and sanitary napkins.

**Please** use the bags provided and the bin.

Please **DO NOT** throw them in the toilet, we have had to get the plumber out too many times, and this is a big cost to the parish.